

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1430

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Tiger Population

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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the overall tiger population in the country has gone up in the past few years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether fool-proof methods and scientific techniques were adopted for the counting of the tiger population in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the population of tigers has increased in only some areas or in all the regions and wildlife parks in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the sub-species of tiger, the Royal Bengal Tiger has increased or decreased in population and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a), (b) & (c) Yes Sir. The assessment of the status of tigers, co-predators and their prey 2014 using the refined methodology has shown a countrywide 30% increase in tiger numbers with an estimated number of 2226 (range 1945-2491) as compared to 2010 estimation of 1706 (range 1520-1909 tigers). The details of tiger estimation pertaining to tiger landscapes in the country for the years 2010 and 2014 are at Annexure-I. The current methodology of tiger estimation uses a double sampling approach to estimate the distribution and abundance of tigers in India, wherein robust spatially explicit capture recapture protocols using joint models have been employed. As first component, information is collected in first phase by ground surveys for determining occupancy of habitat patches by tigers and other predators, line transects to estimate prey abundance, sampling plots on the line transects to assess (habitat characteristics, human impacts and prey dung density).

Alongwith the information generated by the ground surveys, latest remotely sensed data on (a) landscape characteristics, (b) human "foot-print", and (c) habitat attributes are subsequently used to model tiger occupancy and abundance.

The second component of the double sampling consists of (a) scientifically rigorous abundance estimation in select sampling units using a remote camera trap based capture recapture technique for estimating tiger and other carnivore abundance and (b) line transect based Distance sampling for estimating prey abundance.

(d) The only species available in India is *Panthera tigris tigris* which is commonly called Royal Bengal Tiger, population of which has registered a countrywide 30% increase. The details are at Annexure as above. Most of the tiger landscapes of the country have shown increase in tiger population, inter alia, due to concerted efforts of the various stakeholders.
